The 2018 Award Recipients

Postgraduate Psychology Student Social Justice Research Scholarship - Tycho Vandenburg

In 2017 for the first time, the NZPsS offered the social justice scholarship for postgraduate psychology students. This scholarship was established to support the research by NZPsS student subscribers on a significant social justice issue e.g. poverty, social inequality, discrimination etc. as part of a recognized post-graduate degree in psychology at a New Zealand university.

In 2018 the scholarship was awarded to Tycho Vandenburg.

Tycho is a PhD candidate at the School of Psychology, Auckland University. His thesis title is “Transgender and gender diverse youth and early adult homelessness in Aotearoa”. The Awards Committee noted in relation to Tycho’s research: Transgender and gender diverse communities are particularly vulnerable to social discrimination and other forms of injustice. This topic is important and topical with originality in the focus on youth and homelessness. It has the potential to give voice to some very difficult issues through the participatory action research method and empowerment approach. Theories drawn upon for the study were strong, and included translation of those theories into guides for methods or analysis. Tycho has considered some of the ethical processes when working with transgender and gender diverse youth and early adults. With an exceptional academic and leadership record Tycho appears very capable of independent research at doctoral level and a worthy recipient of the Social Justice Research Scholarship.

Karahipi Tumuaki – President’s Scholarship - Karis Knight

The Society offers the Karahipi Tumuaki President’s Scholarship which recognises research that is Māori centred and of value to the Māori community.

This scholarship was awarded in 2018 to Karis Knight.

Karis is enrolled in a DClinPsy at The University of Auckland. Her iwi and hapu affiliations are iwi: Ngāti Porou; Hapu: Te Whānau-a-Ruataupare.

Karis has delved into the exciting and under-researched area of Māori emotions; particularly whakamā (shame, embarrassment) and how Māori understand and experience whakamā as a mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge) construct of psychological distress. Māori concepts of emotions and their presentation is a growing area in kaupapa Māori research, in particular as a way of addressing the effects of intergenerational and historic trauma on mental health.

Positioned within a kaupapa Māori framework the research also seeks to utilise Māori ways of knowing to deconstruct western assumptions of what it means to experience whakamā and its consequences. Her method includes in-depth interviews with Māori mental health professionals and Māori consumers. Karis hopes to provide new knowledge for community services and clinicians about how to support and whakamana (enhancing dignity).